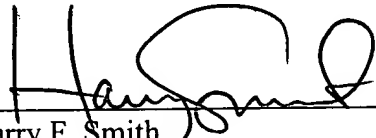


a4 (200). The method for use in a server (101) or client (100) system, for determining that a file is virus-free includes the steps of: determining (401) whether a virus-free certificate (200) is integrated within a file; if a virus-free certificate is integrated within the file: authenticating (415) the virus-free certificate (200), said virus-free certificate including a certificate signature (206); authenticating (407) the file, said virus-free certificate (200) including a file signature (207), said file signature certifying that said file has been declared virus-free by a virus-free certificate authority (102).--

REMARKS

The foregoing amendment removes the multiple dependencies from the European Application. The foregoing amendment also rewrites certain dependent claims into independent form. A favorable consideration that results in the early allowance of pending claims 1-22 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


 Harry F. Smith
 Reg. No.: 32,493
 Attorney for Applicants

9/19/2000
 Date

OHLANDT, GREELEY, RUGGIERO & PERLE, L.L.P.
 One Landmark Square
 Stamford, CT 06901

Telephone: (203) 327-4500
 Facsimile: (203) 327-6401